

House Resolution 647

By: Representatives Day of the 163rd, Chambers of the 81st, Harbin of the 118th, and Stephens of the 164th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on State Agency Accountability; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there is currently a need to establish a method by which the efficiency of state
4 government may be reviewed and the productivity and statutory provisions of each agency
5 evaluated; and

6 WHEREAS, a method of agency accountability will help to ensure that the valuable
7 resources of this state are best utilized, services by agencies are not duplicated, and
8 unnecessary statutory provisions relating to agencies performing nonessential government
9 services may be repealed; and

10 WHEREAS, an established system of accountability would include a review of state statutes
11 applicable to the state agency and identify the programs and services performed by the state
12 agency pursuant to an identifiable statute or duties assumed by an agency without a statutory
13 mandate, including all special purpose activities undertaken to perform such statutorily and
14 nonstatutorily prescribed obligations; and

15 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is responsible for ensuring that the valuable resources
16 of this state are safeguarded through the close examination of state government activities;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, a process should be established to avoid wasteful spending of revenues
19 generated from this state's hardworking taxpayers and to guarantee that such revenues are
20 utilized by state government in the best possible manner; and

21 WHEREAS, state agencies must be held accountable for their service to the public and their
22 responsiveness to the needs of the citizens of this state; and

23 WHEREAS, the state Constitution contemplates a separation of power within state
24 government, giving the legislative branch the power to determine policies and programs and
25 review agency performance; and

26 WHEREAS, this state currently has no uniform policy concerning the overview and auditing
27 of the performance of departments, agencies, commissions, boards, authorities, or other
28 entities within the executive branch of state government; and

29 WHEREAS, state agencies and the statutory obligations of such agencies need to be
30 reviewed and audited periodically from the bottom up to promote efficiency in serving the
31 public and to avoid duplication of service and the waste of taxpayers' money.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that:

33 (a) There is created the House Study Committee on State Agency Accountability to be
34 composed of five members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
35 of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
36 designate a member of the committee who shall serve as chairperson of the committee.
37 The committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

38 (b) The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems
39 mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions or legislation which the
40 committee deems necessary or appropriate. More specifically, the committee shall review
41 the operations and functions of the various agencies and entities of the executive branch
42 of state government and may require audit information of such agencies and entities to
43 assist the committee in its study and review. The committee shall consider the powers,
44 authority, functions, procedures, and responsibilities of the various agencies and make
45 recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the need for the following:

46 (1) Oversight, review, and evaluation of state entities within the executive branch of state
47 government and the establishment of a process and procedures for legislative review,
48 oversight, and evaluation;

49 (2) The reduction of the size of state government and a method for eliminating
50 unnecessary bureaucracy and services;

51 (3) Methods by which efficiency in the management of state government may be
52 improved through reviewing, consolidating, and sunseting entities as a matter of
53 established government practice;

54 (4) Creation of an awareness of the large number of state entities within the executive
55 branch and the functions such entities perform; and

56 (5) Improving the effectiveness of the services delivered by agencies of this state and
57 avoiding the duplication of effort by agencies of state government.

58 (c) The committee shall publish a report no later than December 31, 2009, and the report
59 shall include any recommendations or proposed legislation to establish a method of agency
60 accountability. The committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2009.

61 (d) The committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may
62 deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers,
63 perform its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The
64 legislative members of the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code
65 Section 28-1-8. The funds necessary for the reimbursement of the expenses of the public
66 officers of the executive branch shall come from funds appropriated or otherwise available
67 to their departments. All other funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution
68 shall come from the funds appropriated to or otherwise available to the House of
69 Representatives.